



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

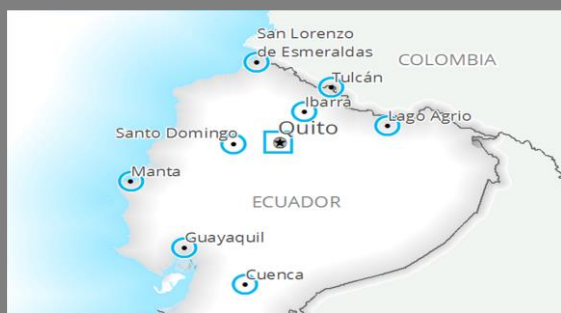
WFP Ecuador Country Brief June 2024



Operational Context

Ecuador showed gross domestic product (GDP) growth before the COVID-19 health crisis, resulting in a relative decrease in poverty and major public investment. However, the poverty rate rose from 21.5 percent in 2017 to 25.2 percent in 2022 while extreme poverty from 7.9 percent to 8.2 percent, with a large difference in rural and urban contexts. 41 percent of the rural population lives under the poverty line compared to 17.8 percent in urban areas. The influx of migrants continued through 2022 increasing the number of migrants living in Ecuador. Between 2021 and 2022, violent deaths grew by 82 percent in Ecuador. It is the sixth most violent country in the region. The Ukraine conflict has further exacerbated existing economic and social issues, resulting in rising inflation and production deficits. Annual inflation reached 3.8 percent in 2022, up from 0.13 percent in 2021. The rapid price increase has caused social unrest and a Government deficit as it tries to curb the increasing costs.

Ecuador is vulnerable to climate change, prone to natural hazards, and faces environmental degradation, threatening food systems and potentially increasing malnutrition and poverty rates across the country.



Population: **17.7 million**

2015 Human Development Index: 86
out of 189

Income Level: **Upper middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **23.9% of
children under 5 years old**

In Numbers

7.034 mt of food assistance distributed*

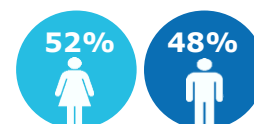
USD 854,153 cash-based transfers made*

USD 17.4 M six months (July – December 2024)
net funding requirements, representing 90
percent of total

35,952 people assisted*

in JUNE 2024

*Preliminary figures



Operational Updates

- In May, WFP provided value vouchers to 13,350 migrants, including 7,230 pregnant women, girls, and households with children under 5, across 16 of the country's 24 provinces.
- WFP assisted 10,615 migrants, refugees and people from host communities with hot meals at shelters and canteens and 4,320 on-the-move migrants received a food kit and a one-time voucher to buy food at local supermarkets.
- As part of the school meals programme in June, 99 educational centres received fresh, nutritious hot meals, benefiting 7,667 students in the provinces of Carchi, Manabí, Imbabura, Bolívar and Santa Elena through collaboration with 6 local governments and 6 smallholder farmer associations.
- WFP signed a US\$2.5 million agreement with the Ministry of Education on 14 June to provide hot meals to 16,793 children in 14 schools across six provinces: Chimborazo, Bolívar, Guayas, Manabí, Pichincha, and Santa Elena.
- This month the "My Healthy Salad" contest began involving 9 educational institutions in Carchi. Furthermore, in Guaranda and Carchi, two nutritional workshops were held with a gender focus.
- With resources from the Japanese government, WFP has begun the implementation of the project Innovative Strengthening of Climate Resilience in Sustainable and Nutritious Agri-food Systems, which will be carried out in Imbabura and Manabí, benefiting more than 55,000 people.

WFP Country Strategy



Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
165.3 m	67.4 m	17.4 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1 People are better able to meet their urgent food and nutrition needs.

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Deliver food assistance (CBT and in-kind) with equitable access to and control over, and access to services, strengthening food security and socioeconomic integration of population in human mobility, host population and other vulnerable Ecuadorian people affected by disasters, emergencies, and prolonged crises, considering the gender and protection approach.
- Strengthen the government's shock-responsive social protection programs with a gender and protection approach, through technical assistance, evidence and capacities to public institutions, decision makers and communities, strengthening national systems of anticipation, prevention, preparedness, mitigation and response to disasters and early recovery.

Strategic Result 2: End malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 2: People have better nutrition, health and education outcomes.

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

- Strengthen institutional capacities and provide an adequate and comprehensive package of interventions with a gender and protection approach to girls, boys, adolescents, and people in vulnerable situations, throughout the life cycle and with emphasis but not limited to on the first 1,000 days.

Strategic Result 3: Sustainable food systems

Strategic Outcome 3: People have improved and sustainable livelihoods.

Focus area: Resilience building

Activities:

- Strengthen institutional capacities and provide technical and operational assistance, resources, assets, services, and information to better support climate-vulnerable communities and family farmers.

Strategic Result 4: Capacity Strengthening

Strategic Outcome 4: Humanitarian and development actors are more efficient and effective.

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

- Provide supply chain and other services to Government and humanitarian partners, including supply chain diagnostics and identification and documentation of gaps, needs and opportunities for operational improvement.

- In June, as part of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) efforts, community brigade training workshops conducted 11 emergency simulations. Municipal authorities reviewed risk management plans, concluding the process with 1,025 community members. Partnering with the International Centre for Research on El Niño Phenomenon (CIIFEN), risk scenarios and impact maps were developed, initiating multi-hazard response plans.
- On 4 June, the results of the study "Food Insecurity for People in Situations of Human Mobility" (EFSA) were presented in Quito. These findings were shared with ambassadors and the humanitarian community and currently being used to inform our interventions in this vital area.

Monitoring

- In June 2024, inflation decreased by 0.95% when compared to the previous month. However, when compared to May 2024, inflation increased by 1.2 percent.
- In May 2024, the unemployment rate was 3.5 percent, while adequate employment accounted for 33.4 percent.
- The Basic Family Basket currently costs US\$795.75, while the Essential Family Basket now costs US\$555.58.

Challenges

- Despite the ongoing security concerns and state of emergency in 7 provinces, the government reports a 17% reduction in homicides in the first half of 2024, with 621 fewer deaths in June compared to June 2023.
- Since mid-June, severe rain and flooding in Ecuador's central highland and Amazonian regions have caused casualties and damage, notably impacting Baños in Tungurahua province with six deaths from landslides. WFP are working with Secretariat for Risk Management to explore to provide support.

Donors

Canada, European Union, Japan, United States of America and private donors.

Additional support has been provided by the Adaptation Fund.